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L'Intendant Tourny (1695-1760). Par MICHEL LHÉRITIER, Agrégé d'Histoire et de Géographie, Docteur ès Lettres. In two volumes. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1920. Pp. xvi, 453; 607.)

THIS is one of those "lives" the interest of which derives not from the hero's character, but from his rôle; a biography of the sort that finds its justification not so much in the intrinsic worth of its subject, his moral or intellectual greatness, as in what might be termed his extrinsic importance, his activities and relations. The Marquis de Tourny, intendant of the Limousin, and later of Guyenne, was, undoubtedly, a man of large affairs; his official career, extending over thirty years, was crowded with feverish activity; he projected much, and achieved—less than he undertook, it is true, but still much, so much as to have entitled him to a meed of gratitude from his own generation, and of praise from those who, coming after, entered into his labors. But the Marquis de Tourny was not a *great* man. Not even the conscientious effort of M. Lhéritier can quite succeed in expanding him to heroic dimensions. He even falls short of the stature of an "administrative genius". He possessed a daring imagination, and conceived magnificent projects; he possessed inexhaustible energy, and threw himself into his enterprises with a vehemence almost torrential. But, like many another self-sure, strenuous, and indefatigable public servant (and Tourny was sincerely devoted to the public interest, as he understood it), he found in his very virtues the chiefest obstacles to his success. His imagination led him on to plan more than he could have executed in double the term of his intendency; and his impetuosity (what Turgot called "*l'humeur impétueuse de M. de Tourny*", vol. I., p. 171, n.), his impatience of delay and restraint, more than once betrayed him into hasty decision and precipitate and ill-advised action. A striking exhibition of this characteristic weakness is afforded by his fiscal measures in the Limousin. For the arbitrary *taille* he proposed to substitute the *taille tarifée* (the theory of which had been elaborated by the Abbé St. Pierre), a measure sound enough in itself, rational and equitable. But so great was his haste to erect the structure of reform, that he neglected to secure the foundation; his census and surveys were inaccurate and incomplete, so faulty that Turgot, coming twenty years later, had to make entirely new estimates and assessments (I. 371 ff.).

Moreover, Tourny himself constantly balked his own undertakings. His jealousy for his own authority, his imperious temper and peremptory manner, antagonized the objects of his paternal care, provoked resistance, and rendered willing co-operation impossible. He would be everything, all powers in one, and all at once. He knew what his province needed, and was determined to "serve it in spite of itself" (II. 13). He quarrelled with everybody in turn—the bishops of Limoges and Angoulême, the *jurats* of the cities, the Academy of Bordeaux (over the trifling matter of the location of a building), the governor of

Guienne, the Parlement of Bordeaux; he even incurred the reprimand of his chief, Machault. He ended by bringing his *généralité* almost to the point of revolt, and thus necessitating a recall that was but thinly cloaked under a nominally voluntary retirement. An administrator who generates friction can hardly be rated as a "genius".

Embittered, but self-confident to the last, Tourny refused to admit failure. History would vindicate him! "Vous me maudissez", he said to the stiff-necked, ungrateful Bordelais, "mais vos enfants me béniront" (II. 11, n.). And curse him they did, as "overbearing toward his inferiors, obsequious toward his superiors, arrogant, harsh, contentious"—the "Satrap of Guienne" (II. 347-348 and n.). Their children may not exactly "bless" his memory; but they have so far fulfilled his prophecy as to raise his monument, in token of their appreciation of his services, and their pride in his achievements. For Tourny did do much to place Bordeaux in his debt. He fostered its industry and encouraged its commerce; he improved its communications with the interior by great highways; he embellished it with noble avenues and imposing buildings. "Administrateur clairvoyant et un peu rude, créateur au génie profond et impérieux", was the judgment pronounced upon his work by the orator at the dedication of his statue (II. 565); "Terrible homme, en vérité, et qui aurait pu devenir un tyran, s'il n'avait été un grand bien-facteur", says his biographer (II. 12).

As a contribution to the administrative history of the Old Régime, the work of M. Lhéritier is of immense value and cannot be too highly praised; as a biography, however, the portrait of a man, its merit is impaired by excessive length, faulty proportions, and surfeit of details.

THEODORE COLLIER.

The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley, A. M., Sometime Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. Enlarged from Original MSS., with Notes from Unpublished Diaries, Annotations, Maps, and Illustrations. Edited by NEHEMIAH CURNOCK, assisted by Experts. Volumes VII. and VIII. (London: Robert Culley; New York and Cincinnati: Abingdon Press. 1916. Pp. 528; 476, iv. \$21.00 for the eight volumes.)

THESE two volumes now under review bring to completion the latest edition of the *Journal* of John Wesley, the first six volumes of which were reviewed in the *American Historical Review* in January, 1916 (XXI. 346-348). It is very probable that no further work will ever need to be undertaken to bring together material relating to the life and career of John Wesley, for the editor—who died before the last volume was through the press—searched the world for Wesleyana.

The seventh and eighth volumes cover the closing years of the life of the Wesleys, 1789-1791. In 1784 John Wesley was eighty-four years of age, but still as active as ever, and his ceaseless travelling, preaching,